

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A gas discharge panel production method comprising:

a surrounding unit forming step for forming a surrounding unit. by putting a first panel and a second panel together, wherein barrier ribs for partitioning light-emitting cells are formed on a main surface of the first panel, and the first panel and the second panel are put together to face each other with the barrier ribs in between; and

a sealing step for sealing the surrounding unit with a sealing material inserted between the first panel and the second panel at the rim, wherein

the sealing step includes:

a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

2. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein

the pressure adjustment sub-step starts before the sealing material hardens.

3. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein

the sealing material softens when an energy is given from outside, and

in the sealing step, the sealing material is first softened then hardened to seal the surrounding unit.

4. (Previously Presented) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein

in the surrounding unit forming step, a connection path which connects inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit is formed in the surrounding unit, and

in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from the inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit via the connection path.

5. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 4, wherein

the surrounding unit is provided with an air vent which connects inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit, and a pipe is connected to the air vent with a crystallized glass in between, and

in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit via the pipe.

6. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein

the sealing step includes:

an airtightly seal sub-step for interrupting gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit, and

in the pressure adjustment sub-step, pressure inside the surrounding unit after the airtightly seal sub-step is adjusted to be lower than before the airtightly seal sub-step.

7. -24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 151, wherein

an anti-deformation member is disposed at the rim of at least one of the first panel and the second panel to be used in the surrounding unit forming step so as to prevent the first panel and the second panel from deforming by pressure by the fastening tools.

26. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 25, wherein
the anti-deformation member and the barrier ribs are made of the same material.
27. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 25, wherein
the anti-deformation member is formed so as to prevent the sealing material from flowing
into an inner area of the surrounding unit.
28. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 25, wherein
the anti-deformation member and the barrier ribs have the same height.
29. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein
in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while an anti-displacement means for
preventing a relative displacement of the first panel and the second panel is disposed on the
surrounding unit.
30. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein
an anti-sealing-material-inflow member is disposed at the rim of at least one of the first
panel and the second panel to be used in the surrounding unit forming step so as to prevent the
sealing material from flowing into an inner area of the surrounding unit.
31. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 30, wherein

the sealing material is disposed at outside the anti sealing-material-inflow member during the surrounding unit forming step.

32. (Previously Presented) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1 further comprising:

an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

33. - 59. (Cancelled)

60. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3, wherein

in the surrounding unit forming step, a connection path which connects inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit is formed in the surrounding unit, and

in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit via the connection path.

61. - 88. (Cancelled)

89. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein

in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

90. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3, wherein

in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

91. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6, wherein

in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

92. - 106. (Cancelled)

107. (Original)The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3 further comprising:

an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

108. (Original)The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6 further comprising:

an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

109. - 133. (Cancelled)

134. (Original) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in Claim 2.

135. (Original) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in Claim 3.

136. (Original) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in Claim 6.

137. - 150 (Cancelled)

151. (Previously Presented) A gas discharge panel production method comprising:

a surrounding unit forming step for forming a surrounding unit by putting a first panel and a second panel together, wherein barrier ribs for partitioning light-emitting cells are formed on a main surface of the first panel, and the first panel and the second panel are put together to face each other with the barrier ribs in between; and

a sealing step for sealing the surrounding unit with a sealing material inserted between the first panel and the second panel at the rim, wherein

in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second panel are pinched by the fastening tools at an area in which the barrier ribs are formed.

152. (Previously Presented) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 151, wherein
in the sealing step, the first panel and the second panel are pinched by the fastening tools at an image display area.

153. (Previously Presented) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 151, wherein
in the sealing step, the first panel and the second panel are pinched by clips.

154. (Previously Presented) The gas discharge panel productions method of Claim 152,
wherein
in the sealing step, the first panel and the second panel are pinched by clips.